



Monday 2nd November 2009

Celebrating 10 years of building safer communities together

10 Questions about Safer North Devon

1 What is Safer North Devon?

Safer North Devon was set up to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour across North Devon and Torridge and this year we are celebrating ten years. We are based at Barnstaple Police Station and work jointly with eight other partner agencies who we challenge to work together to provide better solutions for local communities.

2 What do you do?

We ensure that North Devon remains a priority area for community safety within Devon. We work with our partners to deliver projects across a number of areas to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. Our work covers five main areas and includes; Alcohol and Drug Related Crime; Anti-Social Behaviour; Violent Crime including Domestic Violence; Prejudice and Hate Crime and Youth Crime Prevention.

3 Who do you work with?

We work with eight partner agencies across North Devon and Torridge which include: Devon County Council, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service, North Devon Council, Devon Primary Care Trust, Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, Devon and Cornwall Police Authority, Torridge District Council and Devon and Cornwall Probation Area.

4 How are you making North Devon safer?

We add our expertise to projects already happening locally to help ensure they meet their objectives as well as commission new pilot projects to respond to emerging needs. We also respond to information provided through parish plans, our partner and police statistics and community input through events and PACT (Partners and Communities Together meetings). This information helps us to identify priorities, decide where to focus and manage our resources and how we can best support neighbourhood improvement plans.

5 How do people benefit from your work?

We signpost people to specialist agencies who can help them and also encourage people to get involved in local projects as it helps us better tackle crime and anti social-behaviour. We listen to and act upon ideas and contributions from the public and work on solutions to address these. Every problem is unique, every community has different needs and we try to address these by supporting partners to deliver enhanced local services.

6 How do communities benefit from your work?

We act on the causes of crime and anti-social behaviour to try to reduce long term crime and anti-social behaviour trends to make North Devon a safer place to live, work and visit. Devon and Cornwall remain a safe place to live with a crime rate the 6th lowest nationally per 1,000 per population (Devon and Cornwall Constabulary 2007/2008).

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7 What kind of people do you work with?

We work with a wide range of people including specialist professionals, support staff, Neighbourhood and Specialist Police Officers, Neighbourhood Wardens, Youth Offending Teams, Probation Officers, Local government officers, Alcohol and Drug Services, Housing Associations, Youth Services and a vast range of voluntary and community sector partners who provide vital links to residents and vulnerable groups locally. We will work with communities of greatest need to problem solve where we can.

8 Who pays for Safer North Devon?

North Devon and Torridge Councils pay for three full-time dedicated officers to write and deliver local action plans and advise partner agencies.

The police provide a Neighbourhood Support Team with specialists in Crime Reduction, Alcohol/Night Time Economy and Youth Intervention work who work alongside these three officers. Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service also have a full-time officer seconded to the Safer North Devon team. The police host Safer North Devon in its Barnstaple police station.

Project costs are drawn down from Safer Stronger Communities funding which is a Government grant managed by the Safer Devon Partnership (The Community Safety Partnership for Devon).

Numerous partner agencies make payment in kind by providing officer time, premises and valuable expertise to achieve our shared goals and to help deliver neighbourhood solutions.

9 What are your priorities for the coming year?

Every year our action plans are revised but the theme areas we are working across remain in place until 2011 in line with a Devon wide agreement called the Local Area Agreement (LAA). This means all Community Safety Partnerships are working on the local delivery of Devon wide priorities. What we deliver locally is influenced by a big audit of local crime and Anti-Social Behaviour which is produced each January. The information this provides allows us to review progress, and adjust our work to meet local need. New plans are published each April in line with any new available grants.

10 Is this set-up unique to Northern Devon?

No, every district council area is a member of a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CRDP). In Devon there are four other CDRP's in East & Mid Devon, Exeter, South Devon and Dartmoor and Torbay. Each have their own plan and maybe structured in a slightly different way, but each delivers on shared community aims through partnership.

For more information visit: www.safernorthdevon.co.uk